

WILLIAM AND SARAH GILES

William Giles was born January 1, 1797, at Gunerson, near London, England. He married Sarah Huskinson of Bridgeford in 1820. He and his sons were brick masons by trade.

In 1840, he and his family were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They were preparing to come to Utah. On March 21, 1854, a message was sent to William, telling him that he and his family were to be in Liverpool in 24 hours, that the ship they were to board was to set sail for America. The children were sent to Liverpool at once, but William and Sarah remained at home a number of hours to take care of last-minute duties and business. When the children, Thomas H., and wife; Fredrick, John, Mary, Emma, Kezia and William Jr., arrived at the Huskinson docks, Fredrick and John went into town to buy supplies to take on their journey. When they returned with the supplies the captain of the ship ordered all aboard, for the ship would sail in an hour. Many of the saints told the captain that all members of their families had not yet arrived, but the captain said, "This ship sails in one hour if there is only one soul aboard." William and Sarah Giles had not arrived, so their children took their baggage aboard. The captain, being a man of his word, raised the gangplank in an hour. That night as they looked toward the lights from the docks, they were unhappy, because their parents were not with them on the ship. The next evening, about sundown, a sailing vessel was seen coming toward them. When it reached the big ship "Old England" there were many happy hearts, for the sailing vessel was carrying many of the saints who were left behind. William and Sarah were with them.

When all were on board the ship "Old England," the little vessel turned and sailed back to England, and the big ship carrying William and Sarah and their family sailed toward Zion.

They arrived at New Orleans, where William Giles and family and many of the other saints boarded the steamboat "St. Nicholes," and it sailed up the Mississippi River as far as St. Louis. Here they were examined by a doctor before they could go

ashore. It was found that there were more passengers on the ship than should be, so the doctor and the captain of the ship quarantined the passengers. William found that it was only the Mormons who were quarantined. So the Giles family and all of the saints were told they must wash all clothing and other articles before they could enter the city. They washed for two days.

On the 12th of the month, William and Sarah and family were allowed to enter the city of St. Louis. They were met there by their daughter, Elizabeth Giles Rasband, who, with their family and brother George and his family, had come to America a few years previous. After a few hours' stay in St. Louis they left Quincy, where their daughter Elizabeth was living.

Some members of the family remained in Quincy and found employment. Others went to Burlington, Iowa, where their son George and his family lived. Here the remainder of William's family found employment.

In two years all members of the Giles family came to Burlington and made preparations to cross the plains for Utah. They reached Council Bluffs and on June 5th they commenced their journey for Zion.

William, Sarah and family arrived in Salt Lake City, Saturday, August 15, 1856.

Due to hardships and exposure, Sarah, the mother of this family, died September 5, 1857, at the age of 57. She was buried in Provo Cemetery. Two years later William and his family, with the exception of John, came to Provo Valley.

William Giles married Mary Ann Day. Their home was a three-room log house, located where the Orson Roberts home now stands.

Mary Ann died on December 5, 1874. William died just 10 days later. They are buried in Heber City Cemetery.